



NEWS RELEASE

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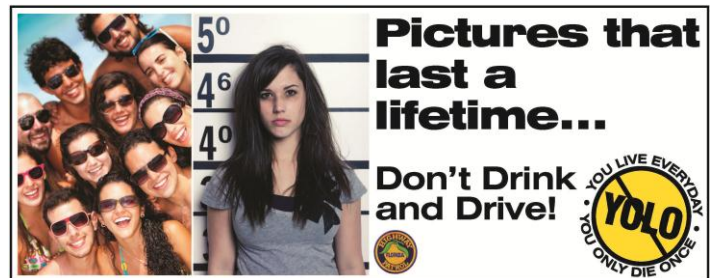
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SPRING BREAK IN FLORIDA: SUN, SAND AND SAFETY

~ Remember memories and pictures last a lifetime ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. –The annual migration of college students to Florida’s beaches is underway and with the influx of spring breakers comes some advice from the Florida Highway Patrol: Be Safe! Be Smart! The state’s beautiful beaches and numerous tourist attractions lure thousands of young people every year, but one bad decision can ruin the party and change their lives forever. Throughout the month of March, FHP and our state and local law enforcement partners will be enforcing the state’s drinking age laws and working to keep impaired drivers off the roads.

The Florida Highway Patrol cautions visitors and residents in the Sunshine State to think twice before driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Driving impaired puts the safety of everyone on the road in danger, and anyone caught driving under the influence will face tough penalties under Florida’s DUI laws that can leave offenders with an empty wallet.



"The Florida Highway Patrol wants spring breakers to enjoy their stay in Florida, but we also want them to be responsible so that everyone goes home safely," said Lt. Colonel Kelly Hildreth. "Florida troopers do not tolerate impaired driving, so drive sober and drive safely."

Do you know Florida law? Knowing the following information and tips can help you enjoy your spring break safely.

- The legal drinking age in Florida is 21.
- Anyone under the age of 21 in possession of alcohol can be cited for a second-degree misdemeanor, which can lead to costly court fees, fines and other lasting consequences.
- Selling alcohol to anyone under 21 or buying alcohol for anyone under 21 is also a misdemeanor.
- Possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a vehicle (in motion or stopped) by the driver and or the passenger(s) is a violation of Florida law.
- Plan ahead. Always designate a sober driver before any drinking begins, or take a taxi or public transportation if you plan to drink alcohol. A taxi or bus ride is much cheaper than a DUI arrest.
- Do not let an impaired friend drive, take the keys and save a life.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov, follow us on Twitter @[FLHSMV](https://twitter.com/FLHSMV) or find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FLHSMV).

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